

Rockland County Historic Preservation Board

September 16, 2024 Minutes

Rockland County Planning Department

50 Sanatorium Road, Building T

Pomona, NY 10970

Members Present: Stacy Alessio, Gillian Ballard, Beth Brown, Mary Cardenas, Claudia Cooney, Lisa Levin, Craig Long, Robert Masiello, Peter Scheibner, Charles "Skip" Vezzetti
Members Absent: Marianne Leese
Staff: Elizabeth Aranguiz, Rockland County Planning Department
Others in attendance: Jenna Nazario, Rockland County Department of Economic Development and Tourism

Call to Order: The meeting began at 3:30 PM.

- 1. Introductions:** Board Chair Craig Long welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jenna Nazario introduced herself to the Board as the Director for the Rockland County Department of Economic Development and Tourism.
- 2. Review of June 17, 2024 Draft Minutes:** Marianne submitted a minor wording alteration by email. On a motion made by Mary, and seconded by Peter, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3. Rev250 Discussion:** Jenna provided a brief overview of upcoming projects from New York State and various counties in preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

The State is creating a tapestry project where every school district will make a tapestry about the Revolutionary War, and the finished pieces will be displayed in the New York State Museum. State parks will also be rolling out kiosks at specific locations. Twenty videos have been created detailing Revolutionary War history that took place at those select locations. Kiosks are also available for purchase by municipalities to install them at local parks and recreational areas. There is also a statewide effort to collect information regarding the underground railroad. Funding regarding these projects will most likely be announced in 2025.

Dutchess County's Rev 250 program is called Drink with George. It will create a tavern crawl with collectable coasters that have a QR code, which will play a video of a George Washington re-enactor telling stories about the Revolutionary War.

Jenna reiterated the importance of the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War. It is expected to increase tourism and create a big economic push in the whole area from 2025-2027. 2026 is when promotion around the anniversary is expected to reach its height. There is some funding through grants and cost share programs with the state government that could be used for small programs. Jenna is reaching out to this Board

and other committees, departments, and organizations for ideas and comments about what Rockland should do to celebrate the anniversary.

4. **Training:** The Board was reminded to take their 2024 Harassment Prevention/Preventing Bullying & Violence training online.
5. **Properties of Concern:** Peter expressed concerns regarding traffic due to the construction of the Champlain Hudson Power Expression, transmission line, which will be built along the Route 9W corridor.

Peter also mentioned there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new North Rockland High School Casarella Field at Ralph Cordisco Stadium on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

Mary informed the Board that the Tappan Fire House is almost complete, and that it fits well with the historic district. She also provided an update on the reading of the Orangetown Resolutions, which was held at an open house at the 76 House and hosted by the Orangetown Museum. Drinks were provided, and there was a reenactment of "No Taxation".

Robert discussed the \$25 million bond referendum that passed in the County. This will allow for the new Thiells firehouse to be built. Ground is expected to be broken on the new facility in March of 2025. There will be a small expansion of the area for the site. This firehouse will be for one company and one department, so that should keep things moving smoothly. The architectural style of the building will conform with the buildings already located in the area, specifically the parks. Developers will be using a Haverstraw brick, and the building will only be two-stories. Taxes will increase slightly as this project is funded under the tax bill.

Claudia mentioned that the John Green House got a new door, which was made in Vermont. Renovations have been slowly getting approved as they get funding for various projects and move through the house. They also added comparable pine flooring to certain areas within the home. There was a small fundraising event at the Hudson House that went well. Several Board members attended.

Beth gave an update on the Carson McCullers house in South Nyack. Work has continued on the house, and they appear to be getting closer to completion; however, the completion date is not known.

Marianne emailed an update regarding Ed Marse expressing interest in having a historical marker installed at his home. She has received no further word from Ed Marse after sending him prices and information on how to apply for a marker with HSRC.

6. **Old Business:** Peter noted that following the renovations of Building A at the Health complex, several art pieces that were from the 1930s were stored. It appears that these pieces have been brought back to the building, and that they will likely be displayed once again.
7. **New Business:** Marianne emailed about The Lafayette Trail, Inc., which worked with the Village of Haverstraw to install a historical marker in Emeline Park on September 15, 2024. The marker tells of the time when, during Lafayette's visit to the US 1824-1825, he was going up the Hudson River to West Point and beyond on the night of September 15, 1824, in dense fog. The steamboat he was on, the James Kent, grounded on the Oyster Bank in Haverstraw. Several hours later it was freed and continued its journey upriver. Numerous Lafayette tour markers have been installed in many places where he visited in the US.
8. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2024 at 3:30 PM in the Building T conference room.

Adjournment: On a motion made by Skip, and seconded by Gillian, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.